

C. H. S.

BANDWAGON

AUGUST ISSUE, 1952

15¢



—Photo by Paul Luckey

HENRY RINGLING MAUSOLEUM
BARABOO, WISCONSIN

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— The Circusiana Magazine —

C. H. S.

Bandwagon

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AUGUST ISSUE, 1952

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SEVEN RINGLING BROS. WERE MASONS

One of the greatest Masonic families in the United States and also the greatest family in the business of entertaining people by Circus, was that of the Ringling Bros. There were seven of them, and all were Masons. All were members of the Baraboo Lodge No. 34, Baraboo Valley Chapter No. 49 of the Royal Arch Masons, and St. Johns Commandery, No. 21, of Knights Templar, and the Wisconsin Scottish Rite bodies of Milwaukee.

The Editor Says

Wasn't that a fine convention. The Kings certainly returned from Baraboo refreshed and more determined than ever to put out the best Bandwagons ever. It was nice to see all our old friends. We were particularly happy over the remarkable recovery that "Dad" White made after his accident last year. Some of our newer members who were attending the C.H.S. Convention for the first time were having a wonderful time making new friends and finding that there were others who shared their enthusiasm for the circus. Sometimes in your home town you are considered somewhat of a "freak" to be so interested in the Circus, but on a convention we are all the same.

Walter Pietschmann has sent us some of his wonderful pictures of the convention, but they arrived a little too late to put in this issue (too long overdue now), so we will keep them, Walter, and put them in the next issue.

By the way, do any of you have a good snap of George Chindahl on the elephant at Richland Center? That certainly should deserve publication.

I think Walter Scholl deserves a medal for his determination to stick to his history of the Ringlings even on vacation.

To all our good friends who have written to Bob or me in the past weeks please have patience. We have just not had time to get all your letters answered, but we hope to catch up soon. Not too fast, though because Barnes Bros. Circus will be in Richmond on Thursday and Friday, August 21 and 22.

John Heidl, Cliff Cowan, Marvin Gauger and John Wilson visited on the Mills Bros. Circus in Baraboo, June 28. The former so far this year has seen five shows, namely, Hamid-Morton, Cole Bros. at Chicago stadium, Howe's Hippodrome, Mills Bros., and the Kelly-Miller Bros., and all were greatly enjoyed.

Seventh Annual Convention

The Seventh annual convention of the Circus Historical Society was held at Baraboo, Wisconsin, July 10, 11 and 12. Headquarters were at the Warren Hotel, and the exhibits, business meeting and banquet were held in the Elks Auditorium.

On Thursday, registration was held in the morning. In the afternoon members went in cars to various sites of historical interest in Baraboo. Of particular interest was the old elephant barn. This tour ended at the Sauk Co. Historical Museum. Some of the members attended the Indian Pageant at Wisconsin Dells that evening and others went to see "The Greatest Show on Earth" at the Al G. Ringling Theatre.

On Friday morning many visited the Court House, viewed Bill Kasiska's collection, toured around Devils Lake or the Dells.

In the afternoon the business session was held at the Elks Auditorium. Twenty-one members were present. Greetings were read from several members including Vice-President Bill Green, Clarence Shank and others. A great deal of discussion was held on the publication costs of the Bandwagon. It was voted to raise the price given to Bob King for printing from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per issue. This does not include the mailing cost of approximately \$4.50 nor the cost of cuts around \$4.00 each when used. If pictures are sent with an issue this runs around \$10.00 more. In view of all these figures the members of the convention voted to hold a mail vote to raise dues from \$3.25 to \$3.50. Thanks were given to Bill Kasiska for his excellent work in arranging for the convention and to Paul Luckey for his music. Mr. C. P. Fox told us a little about his new book on circus wagons which is to be published soon. Several members who had never attended a convention before spoke of their interest in the organization and of their collections. This included Mr. Edward Olson, Mr. Frank Goldquist, Mr. Ed. Binner, Mr. Howard Gusler, and Mr. George Chindahl.

At 5:30 a memorial service was held in St. Joseph's Cemetery at the graveside of James R. Whalen. Music was furnished by the Sauk County Circus Band under the direction of Paul Luckey. Solos were sung by Lewis E. Gerald and Clinton W. Platt. The invocation was given by Rev. Father Eugene Bauhs. Then followed the reading of the list of the Showmen at Rest in St. Joseph's and Walnut Hill Cemeteries. Secretary Robert C. King read the names of C. H. S. members who had died since the last convention. These were: Frank Gentry and Cheerful Gardner. Tribute was also given to Mary Kasiska, mother of Bill Kasiska. Paul Luckey sounded taps and the President Bette Leonard placed the wreath on the grave. The Eulogy was read by Fred Leonard. The benediction was given by Father Bauhs. After this service roses were placed on several graves in the Walnut Hill Cemetery.

The banquet was held at 7:30 in the Elks Auditorium. The food was excellent. The rousing good circus music played by the Sauk County Circus Band created a very festive mood. Our own member Ann King, sang a number dedicated to Bette Leonard which brought down the house. Several guests were introduced. Some of these were members of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

which is interested in getting a circus museum set up in Baraboo. John Kelley was the principal speaker for the evening, and he held us spell bound by his use of words in describing incidents of the past.

On Saturday everyone went by car to Richland Center, Wisconsin, to spend the day on the Kelly-Miller Show. This was enjoyed by everyone. The Leonards and Bob King particularly enjoyed seeing the many friends they had on the show.



—Photo courtesy of Bill Kasiska

Those in photo are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wixom, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goldquist, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Olsen, Larry and Jerry Olsen, Bette and Fred Leonard, Bob and Agnes King, Walter Scholl, Bill Kasiska, Walter Pietschmann, Ed Binner, Murray Guy, Mr. and Mrs. Fay Reed, "Dad" White, and Charles Hill.

This was taken in front of the Ringling Elephant Barn, Baraboo, Wisconsin, July 10. The little house with the metal roof was the home of Claude and Ernie Tucker, who trouped with the Ringling Show. Later Ernie was with Hagenback-Wallace, Cole Bros., and Yellow Burnett's motorized show.

Visitors at various times to the convention were the Larsons of Clinton, Illinois, Forest Kuhns of Wichita, Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Platt and Mrs. Henry Ringling.

Eddie Hawthorne, English member, sent photos to all members present at the convention and also sent a large picture as a long distance prize which was won by George Chindahl of Maitland, Florida. A bound edition of New York Clippers was given by Dr. H. H. Conley and was drawn by Dick Conover.

Bill Kasiska celebrated his birthday on Saturday, the 12th.

C. H. "Dad" White was again the oldest member present. ("Dad" looked wonderful!) Charles Hill, who for the past two years has accompanied Murray Guy, is now the youngest member.

We all enjoyed Frank Goldquist's model circus.

Those present were: Bette Leonard, President; Fred Leonard, Robert C. King, Secretary; Agnes W. King, Ann King, Walter Pietschmann, Treasurer; C. H. "Dad" White, Clyde Wixom, Leona Wixom, Walter Scholl, Howard Gusler, Fay Reed, Mabel Reed, Gus Moulton, Ferd Welk, Ed J. Binner, Bill Kasiska, Dick Conover, George Chindahl, Melvin Olsen, Frances Olsen, Jerry Olsen, Larry Olsen, Edward Olson, Agnes Olson, Frank Goldquist, Anna Goldquist, C. P. Fox, M. G. Gorrow, Dorothy Gorrow, John Kelly, F. L. Van Epps, Pat Kelly, Herman Linden, Mary Linden, John Heidl, Dr. H. H. Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kitto and children, Mr. and Mrs. Sverre Braathen, Charles Sherwood, Cliff Cowen, Henry Moeller, Ed Golmar, and Paul Luckey.

From the Members

Allentown, Pa.—So far this year I have caught Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey at the Garden in New York; Gainesville Community Circus at the C. F. A. Convention; Rodeo at Las Vegas, Nevada; Polack Bros. West Unit at Oakland, Calif. (best indoor line of acts that I ever saw); Hagen-Wallace; Burling Bros; and Beers-Barnes. Business very spotty for all of them. Kelly-Morris is booked for Allentown on August 5th and Mills Bros. will be around here in a couple of weeks and King-Christiana at Pottstown on August 11th.

CHARLES B. KISTLER, No. 128

Cambridge, Mass.—Caught the "Big One" twice—in the Boston Gardens and under canvas at Providence, R.I. Caught King at Lawrence and expect to catch 'em again on their way back. Saw Hunt show at Beverley and spent the day with them. Big one has a very swell show, but it is still a lot too girly-girly to be awfully good circus. King has a wonderful fast-moving well-balanced show—their best in years. Hunt is away below standard—no feature or thrill acts. Too monotonous. What there is, is very good circus and well done. Went to Memorial Mass for John Crowley (former C.H.S. Secretary) this week, incidentally, his dad died in February. Expect Mills Bros. through here in August. Have never seen them.

WALTER H. GOMES, No. 278

Hollywood, Calif.—Two circuses have been here, so far this season, Clyde Beatty's, which I visited several times, and Polack Bros. Western unit. Beatty's Circus played Los Angeles and the surrounding towns for several weeks. I know some people with it, so had a chance to get a few pictures. Polack Bros. again, have a fine show. A repeat of some of the acts of last season and of course several new ones. The Ward-Bell Flyers, were on again this season, perhaps you have seen the act. If not, it is composed of nine people, three catchers and six Flyers. It really is terrific, to my mind, the most amazing and beautifully done flying act in the business.

LYMAN L. SHELDON, No. 403

North Haven, Conn.—Recently caught Wirth Indoor Circus for the Shrine at Hartford, Conn. Great show and Walkmir's Aida for the closer sure got a great hand. Thursday, of last week King Bros. hit into a thunderstorm. Very poor attendance at the evening show as the rumor went around town that the big top had come down, and that pythons from the sideshow got loose, all this wasn't helped by the fact that it rained practically in sheets. RBB is the next one slated for this area, West Haven, Conn., June 29th. We're also hoping that Strates Shows get back here this year so we can all catch the Terrell Jacobs show.

JAMES W. KELLEY, No. 113

Dr. E. L. Cooper Dies at Age 50

Physician Stricken In Minnesota Visit

Dr. Everette Lucius Cooper, 50, Wichita physician and show horse owner, died at Hastings, Minn., Tuesday, July 22, following a heart attack.

Dr. Cooper was in Minnesota visiting the owners of the Al G. Kelly and Miller Circus, which was on tour. The doctor, who had a rural Wichita address, lived on East Central near the Eastborough road.

Dr. Cooper was born May 4, 1902, at Oakdale, Neb. After graduating from high school at Oakdale he moved to Chadron, Neb., where he accepted employment on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad as a locomotive fireman, a post he held for three years.

Following this he was a brakeman on the same railroad for six years. He was married while working for the railroad and a year later a son, Donald, was born. Dr. Cooper took a pre-medical course at Nebraska State Normal at Chadron while still working for the railroad.

He entered Loyola Medical school at Chicago in 1926 and graduated June 8, 1932.

Dr. Cooper came to Wichita following graduation and interned at Wesley hospital. He entered practice in the field of obstetrics and gynecology with Dr. Ray West, a connection which continued for nearly two years. He then entered practice on his own and developed a following which resulted in the erection a year ago of the modern medical office building at Rutan and Central and his association with Dr. Grant E. Evans.

As a boy Dr. Cooper was always deeply attracted to the glamour of the circus. His love for the sawdust ring continued into manhood, and after his marriage it became his ambition to see his wife as the bespangled equestrienne of the circus ring. He started working to this end as soon as he was financially able. His first stable included two horses, trained as "high school" animals. To this small start he gradually added others until he had a group of nine which he had trained to be one of the finest liberty horse acts in America. This act appeared with top circuses of the nation for seven years and was only recently sold.

Dr. Cooper spent every possible vacation on tour with a circus. In 1949 he journeyed to Europe, realizing that most top-notch circus talent originates there. He was in search of a trainer for his liberty horses, but though he failed to locate one, the trip was one of the



DR. E. L. COOPER

highlights of his life. In 1951 he took his 14-year-old daughter, Sharon, with him on a two-week tour with the Al G. Kelly & Miller Circus. With them went Sharon's "high school" horse. Sharon rode daily in the circus arena during that vacation, to the tremendous pleasure of her father.

Bought Trailer

In anticipation of a fine vacation this summer Sharon bought Dr. Cooper a new house trailer as a gift for Father's day. It was intended for use in circus touring. Next day, June 17, Dr. Cooper could stand the temptation no longer and he left with his new trailer again to join the circus on the road at Lusk, Wyo. He was still with the circus at the time of his death.

Dr. Cooper's liberty horses appeared in Wichita with the police circus for five consecutive years. Usually Mrs. Cooper appeared here with them. She likewise often rode with them on special occasions, when she would join the doctor on his circus vacations. She visited him only recently, spending a full week with him in Minnesota and Iowa, where she rode in the sawdust ring daily.

Dr. Cooper was a member of the College Hill Methodist Church, the Sedgwick County Medical association, the Kansas Medical association, Wichita Consistory No. 2, Midian Shrine, Brotherhood of Railroad Engineers, Optimist Club, Knife and Fork Club, Farm and Ranch Club and Circus Fan Association.

Survivors include his wife, Della, two children, Sharon and Donald, three sisters, Mrs. Iona Hyde, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Edith Kent, Portland, Ore., and Mrs. Doris Skow, Omaha.

—From the Wichita Eagle

* * *

Dr. Cooper was a very great friend of Fred and Bette Leonard. It was Fred Leonard who broke the first two horses that Dr. Cooper had, and later broke the Liberty Act mentioned above. Fred went to England a couple of years ago with Doc, and they had a grand time.

Many of our members had the privilege of meeting Dr. Cooper this year, when we were in Richland Center, Wisconsin. I'm sure that all of us enjoyed knowing him—I'm sure that Doc never had an enemy in the world. On that day, Dr. Cooper told me he had delivered over 11,000 babies in his career—and that is a record for any doctor to set.

Robert C. King, Sec'y

CIRCUS STAR UNINJURED IN ACCIDENT

Pinito Del Oro, star of Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus was uninjured when her rigging broke, at Indianapolis during the matinee on Sunday, Aug. 10. A two-inch rope supporting her trapeze broke near the end of the act. The rigging swung out to the side, and Miss Del Oro was able to grab the rope on the other side and slide to the ground safely. Her fall was checked only 8 feet from the ground. She suffered minor rope burns on her hands and legs and possibly jangled nerves.

At one time, in Madrid, the rope broke while Miss Del Oro was doing her head stand, but her fall was broken by her husband, Juan Funte, who always stands under her during the act, so that he may break a fall if one comes. Pinito Del Oro "little pine tree of gold" has been soloing since she was only 12 years of age. She comes from the Canary Islands.

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Cole Bros. Fire of 1909 Recalled

By John C. Kunzog

A grape vineyard now flourishes on what was once the site of Cole Brothers Circus at Harborcreek, Pa., eight miles east of Erie, Pa.

It was on September 28, 1909 that the No. 1 Advertising Car arrived at winter quarters, and the crew felt highly elated over their accomplishments for the season, having posted 582,000 sheets of paper; used 278 barrels of flour; 75,000 lithographs hung in windows, and one million pieces of advertising distributed. John Feltus established a record when he hung 1,496 sheets; James Handle and Harry Snyder, on a double route, hung 2,906 sheets.

Martin J. Downs was proprietor of the show; George E. Robertson, contracting agent; Ed C. Knupp, general agent, and E. E. Goodell, superintendent.

There was considerable activity at winter quarters following the arrival of the advertising car. Hay and grain was stored for the winter, and to guard against any damage by leaking roof, a crew of men were engaged in putting a coat of tar and sand on the roof.

That was the status of things on Saturday morning, October 9, 1909. A crew of men were applying tar to the roof, heating the material in the back room of the barn and hauling the melted pitch to the roof through a trap door. Suddenly dense clouds of smoke emanated through the trap door and the men rushed from the roof, finding safety by leaping into a pile of sand that was used in covering the tar. In some manner the kettle of tar had become ignited or boiled over, and within minutes the interior of the building was a mass of flames.

The circus train was not due to arrive until Monday, but there were two wagons valued at \$2,500 each, and four wagons of lesser value, and a large stock of advertising matter and the winter's supply of hay and grain consigned to the flames.

E. E. Goodell, superintendent, had just arrived at Harborcreek, completing arrangements for wintering the show. At the time the fire broke out he was in a barber shop at Erie. Learning of the fire he was taken to the scene by a friend in one of those contraptions referred to facetiously as "gasoline buggies." He immediately tried to rent barn space for the animals pending final determination of the wintering problem, but he was unable to locate a basement barn for the elephants, no ordinary barn floor being strong enough to hold them. Property owners in the vicinity quickly boosted their rental price to such a figure that it was decided to look elsewhere for accommodations as soon as possible.

With the arrival of the circus train on Monday, tents were erected to house much of the equipment. In the meantime a committee from the Corry (Pa.) Fair and Driving Park Association called upon Goodell, and their proposition of renting the Corry fair grounds for the winter was accepted, and the show property and animals moved to that town, 36 miles from Erie.

It is said that bad luck never strikes singly, and this held true in this case. M. J. Downs, the owner, was in a Toronto, Canada, hospital suffering blood poisoning. The previous summer, while at Grove City, Pa., he was kicked by a horse. Blood poisoning developed and he was taken to his home in Toronto, and about a month prior to the fire his left leg was amputated in the hope that this would check the spread of the poisoning and save his life. This measure failed to save his life, however, and he passed away on October 19th, and his remains were interred at Toronto. He left a widow and one son, Martin.

When his will was admitted to probate the estate was valued at \$100,448.43; the circus property at Corry being valued at \$22,000, the balance of the estate comprising cash, stocks and real estate. Mrs. Margaret Downs, the widow, received \$15,000; Patrick Downs, father of the deceased, \$12,000; the remainder of the estate, after payment of other small legacies, went to the testator's son, James Martin Downs.

The winter quarters destroyed by fire were built by Frank J. Walker, of the Erie Lithograph Company, for the circus at a cost of \$11,000. It was planned to rebuild and have the show maintain its winter quarters at Harborcreek, but following the death of Mr. Downs the plan was abandoned.

NEW MEMBERS

John Pearson Medders, No. 512
514 N. Locust St.,
Denton, Texas.

Edw. S. Olson, No. 513
c/o First National Bank,
Starbuck, Minnesota.

Leon Holecheck, No. 514
617 N. Tulane,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Edward D. Leavitt, No. 515
89 Foss St.,
Biddeford, Maine.

John Towson Smith, No. 516
5740 Maplehill Road,
Baltimore 12, Maryland.

Frank C. Goldquist, No. 517
22 Charles St.,
Savanna, Ill.

Charles Sherwood, No. 518
1271 Milwaukee,
Janesville, Wisc.

Charles Hill, No. 519
R. D. 2,
Jeannette, Pa.

Sverre C. Braathen, No. 520
110 East Main,
Madison 3, Wisc.

Jack D. Kolar, No. 521
P. O. Box 106,
Park Falls, Wisc.

J. Albert Merryman, No. 522
76 West St.,
Biddeford, Maine.

Henry C. Moeller, No. 523
215 Third Ave.,
Baraboo, Wisc.

The Monkey and the Hangover

(Continued from April-May Issue)—By John Hynek

You would be surprised how homey an acrobat and his wife with two kids can make their little part of a railroad coach, which is their home. The two kids slept on a board platform near the ceiling of car. I asked, "How come the kids never fall off the platform, especially if the train were swinging around curves?" The acrobat and his wife were surprised at such a question. The kids slept on such a platform since they were born, and so did other circus kids, and no one ever heard of a kid falling off the platform. I used to think of those circus kids later when my kids fell out of beds in a house in Tama.

The acrobat, wife and kids occupied four railroad coach seats, two on each side of the aisle. They had pictures on the wall, all sorts of utensils—a regular apartment, and they thought life was good to them. The kids could hang by their toes from the platform.

Circus Losing Money

A circus has to take in a pile of money to carry on. Hugo Bros. circus was not taking in the piles of money necessary. Vic was with the circus during the summer, but during fall and winter he was in town to manage the Majestic theatre in the same old way. Charley stayed away from Russia and Australia, and was with the circus all season.

Vic was having financial worries. But nobody in Cedar Rapids heard about that. Everybody thought the circus was going strong as everything else did which Vic touched. That is why Vic was able to sell the circus to a man who had never been with a circus before.

Might as well finish with the circus before getting to the monkey episode. I was a short time in Tama when I read in the newspapers that the circus under its new owner went broke. The sheriff of Linn county had in his possession some snakes and a few monkeys and what not as assets to be sold at sheriff's sale for benefit of creditors. But the sheriff had no food for these monkeys and reptiles. The creditors, already badly in the hole, didn't want to put up money to feed reptiles and monkeys. I didn't take the trouble to find out how the sheriff wound up with those assets, but I did hear that the creditors got a jolt, for large sums were owed to wagon makers, harness makers, and all sorts of other people.

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Theatre Competition

That Vic could build a great theatre, organize a 14-car circus and get rid of it by sale when it was losing money should give my readers an idea of what a man of action he was, and that he had the inventive mind to show him a way out of a crisis. Now that you, My Readers, have a line on Vic, you are ready for the episode of the educated monkey, which happened before the circus troubles, and so our story goes back in time a bit.

It was the time when movies were invented and picture shows were springing up. People having numerous places of entertainment to go to, were slipping away from the Majestic theatre habit. So Vic had to exercise his inventive mind to hold the crowds. He was the one man able to do so.

When business showed a dropping off at the Majestic, Vic hopped on a train for Chicago or some other place in the East. When he returned he announced a sensation or at least a very extraordinary bill for the Majestic, and ticket sales immediately increased.

Vic had helped many show people who were down and out, and these informed him about which acts in vaudeville were drawing crowds. He also had contacts with the powers that were in show business.

When business was dull, Vic never sat around worrying and didn't cut expenses, as so many theatre managers did. He got in action, looking for a sensation, and he spent money to get it, working on the theory that if one expensive act revived the Majestic habit, people would patronize his theatre for quite some time, and in that way an expensive act paid off in the long run.

The Girl Acts

That Vic had contacts can be inferred from what he did in spring time when baseball and gardening began pulling people away from the theatre. That was a time when a theatre manager had to keep down expenses, but nevertheless had to have a good show to get what little business there was. Vic solved the problem by turning his theatre into a sort of audience testing place.

Big time vaudeville acts playing theatres in New York, Philadelphia, and other large cities had new acts they intended to start on the road in the Fall. These acts had been well rehearsed and were about ready. But smart managers of such acts liked to test them on audiences. Vic had close friends among such managers. So during the dull season of spring, Vic let these managers bring their acts to the Majestic for audience tests. In this way he got some very high class acts for a very small price and the act got a trial before an audience of people who were used to good vaudeville.

Most of these acts were girl shows, or vaudeville numbers by pretty girls who sang and danced and men comedians telling jokes and dancing too.

The manager learned whether the songs his girls sang pleased an audience. If they didn't new songs were tried. He also learned which jokes went over, and which dances made a hit. There was no radio then, and a comedian could go around the country telling the same joke for maybe two years.

The Basement Technique

Every time my night news beat was dead I hung around the theatre, for there one met interesting people, and also could pick up news tips. I used to like to visit with the managers and personnel of these big time acts which were doing a test show of four days in the Majestic. There was one Jewish manager of a girl singing and dancing act who was there every spring.

It puzzled me that every time this man's act was on the stage, he went down into the basement of the theatre. I asked him what it was all about. He said, "When my girls are on, come with me to the basement. I show you."

We went down into the basement. Above us was the audience. The girls sang a song. The manager said:

"Now listen, When my girls sing if the people in the audience keep time with their feet, the songs is good, stays in the show. If the people don't tap with their feet, out of the show goes the song, and I got to get a different song." Seems a crazy way of judging an act. But this fellow was a big success.

Darwinian Theory Again

On this particular occasion Vic talked something like this:

"There really must be something to this Darwinian theory that man is descended from a monkey."

"Ha, ha, ha. Vic, you don't mean

to tell us that you have brought Darwin out of his grave and will have him deliver a lecture at the Majestic, do you? Even if you did, nobody would go to the show. Nobody talks about Darwin any more."

"They will be talking about Darwin, and you fellows will too. Listen, I myself laughed, but what I heard about that monkey, made me go see it.

"I'm bringing that monkey to the Majestic. You'll hear aplenty about Darwin when the people here see it.

"That monkey does everything a man does, except laugh. You fellows know that an animal can't laugh. But this monkey almost laughs. You can see it in his eyes that he is laughing—I mean on the inside.

"Say, that monkey does everything a man does. Why, that monkey actually thinks. You can see by the expression on its face that the monkey thinks.

"This is the greatest act that's ever been in vaudeville. It cost me more, this one act, than I'll take in at the box office for two weeks. But I'll get it back, by getting the people into the Majestic habit again.

"Yes, that monkey does everything a man does. When you see that monkey you just can't help thinking that there must be something to this theory that man is descended from a monkey."

"He is an educated monkey. Why, in the big cities where this monkey showed, people had rows over the Darwinian theory again, and in one place the preachers tried to stop the show.

"The only thing I'm worried about is that the monkey might get sick. Monkeys, you know are subject to consumption. A monkey gets a bad cold, then consumption, and he's dead. Hope this one don't catch a cold now.

"There was another monkey like this one—the first educated monkey, and it got the consumption and died. But now they have this second monkey to be educated, and it is even smarter than the first one.

"Tell you how I was able to get this monkey. They took it off the circuit in the big cities to give it a good rest—afraid of that tuberculosis. Now the monkey is ready to show again, but they got their dates mixed up, and so the monkey can't open on the big circuit and has four vacant dates. I got those dates for the Majestic, four days in Cedar Rapids.

"Yes, Gentlemen, wait and see. You'll be talking about the Darwinian theory again."

And Vic was gone. He had a system of telling a little at a time to build up curiosity.

Circus Folk Honor Departed

BARABOO, WISC., June 28, 1952—In the peaceful, well-kept Walnut Hill Cemetery, overlooking the city in the valley and with rugged hills as a backdrop, circus folk from Mills Bros. Circus joined with Circus Fans and townsfolk in paying their respects to departed showmen, particularly those at rest here, at a 5:30 P.M. twilight service at the stately mausoleum of Al. and Lou Ringling.

Opening the program, Prof. Joseph Rossi's Mills Bros. Circus Silver Star Concert Band played Chopin's Funeral March. Judge Adolph Andro, long-time friend of circus folk, was master of ceremonies. Rev. George Schiffmayer of Trinity Episcopal Church asked divine invocation and Rev. Maurice Jones the benediction. Clinton W. Platt, Sauk County's Register of Deeds, sang a solo, Grace Elliott's "JUST AS I AM." Capt. Bert Wallace, Equestrian Director, Mayme Ward, once of the Flying Wards and now wardrobe mistress, and Manager Jack Mills, presented a rose, lilly and forget-me-nots in memory of showdom's deceased here and elsewhere. Then followed the intoning of the names of showmen interred in Walnut Hill and St. Joseph's Cemeteries by Judge Andro: Otto and Henry and Augustus G. Ringling, Mr. and Mrs. Al. Ringling, Ben. F., Chas. A., and Jake Gollmar, Spencer "Del" Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bullard, Mr. Cunningham, Albert, Claude and Willis Gollmar, Charles Hampton, John Hamilton, John Harris, Joseph Hitchinson, E. V. Hocum, Charles Rooney (Boss Hostler), Charles Rooney (Equestrian), Mike and John Rooney, H. Sid. Rubien, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schadel, Robert Taylor, Claude Tucker, James R. Whalen. Prof. Joseph Rossi sounded taps. On behalf of the C.F.A., C.H.S., and Amer. Fed. of Musicians' Union, Ferd. Welk, Baraboo's oldest trouper, laid a wreath at the base of the mausoleum. Eulogist for the occasion was John H. Wilson, one-time performer with Hagenbeck-Wallace and a staff-writer of the Ripon, Wisc., Press. Beginning the address on a note of sadness over the absence of Rev. Doc Waddell due to illness and extending all good wishes to this venerable circus personality, Mr. Wilson delivered the following eulogy: "Members of the Circus Family and Friends;—We are assembled here today in reverence and respect to pay our tribute and devotion to the memory of those great souls that are laid to rest and who gave of their earthly lives, their numerous talents and endeavors to the profession of the circus. We do so with full knowledge that their accomplishments were not wholly dedicated to personal gain, but to bring cheer to the hearts of the multitudes who witnessed their varied contributions to the institution of the American Circus. So we have spread before us, the graves of those who are laid to rest and whose origin was of Baraboo, a small Wisconsin city who gave to the world some of the best in the respective field of the circus. They too pioneered the trails of this great and mighty land to bring romance and thrilling enchantments of their offerings among their paths. All were outstanding in their separate talents, for we are somewhat aware of their work. Some were general performers, some managers and owning operators of the largest circus enterprises in the world, some became specialists with horses, and others were the greatest equestrians of their time. And still it was, that another became known

as a master among elephant trainers, and it was he, whom I knew well. In Wisconsin, we too have other communities that produced and pioneered the American Circus. Communities as Delavan, Janesville, Beaver Dam, Portage, Watertown, Wonevok, Sheboygan, and Sparta. But Baraboo can be reliably sure that because of these departed brethren that the greatest of their age arose from here. Throughout our vast nation, we have others who now are at eternal rest at various stands along the tan bark trail. All are accounted for in that register of the big top. And many were identified with the Baraboo institutions of the circus. Word should not pass us by without mention of the Mills Brothers, Jack, Jake, and Harry, whose choice it was that we assemble here for this purpose. It is traditional and is patterned for the institution of the circus that memorial services such as this be conducted. And it is men such as the Mills Brothers whose ideals bring continuation of this splendid tradition. So long as there are circus men such as these, the American Circus will always be perpetuated to be held in high esteem. Time should not permit me to eulogize further. Simplicity is often more golden. So it is therefore with revered respect that I beg to pay homage to those whose memory we not only honor on this day at sun down, but during the entire span of our time. In directing these tributes of honor to the departed circus folk who are laid to rest at Baraboo, it is with these final words that I take leave that with their contributions to the institution of the circus, their influence made it possible for the lives of millions to be made fuller and richer because they had lived.

"The lights are lowered, one by one;
All out and over, rings the cry.
The show is o'er—The races run—
The crowds depart—Good night—Good Bye."

The band closed the program with "ROCK OF AGES."

* * *

Present from Mills Bros. Circus were: Jack Mills, Bert and Jeanette Wallace, Mayme Ward, Joe Rossi and the entire Mills Bros. band, Felix Brazon, Billy Hammond, Tom Viola, Harry Ruster, Jack and Reta LaPearl, Geoffrey Dewsbury, Genevieve Tharp and Fred Stafford.

Also present were Henry Ringling, Jr., (son of Henry, Sr.), Viola (Gollmar, daughter of Ben F. Gollmar), Ray Hocum and family (son of E. V. Hocum and grandson of Jake Gollmar), Henry Moeller (wagonmaker and first cousin of Ringling and Gollmar Bros.), Mrs. Mayme Rubien (daughter of Spencer Alexander and widow of "Sid" Rubien), Dr. and Mrs. Fred E. Tryon (the former Gollmar Show physician and the latter nee Lizzie Rooney, equestrienne), Ferd Welk, Pete Johnson, and Paul Luckey. Among Circus Fans and visitors were State Senator Clifford Krueger of Merrill, Bert Siebert of Green Bay, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Gorrow and John Griem of Appleton, Cliff Cowan, John Heidl, Marvin Gauger of Oshkosh, John H. Wilson of Ripon, Mr. Dailey of Prairie du Chien, Frank Van Epps of Portage, Mayor Rollo W. Prothero, Judge Adolph Andro, Bill Kasiska, Aug. Moulton, Alf. T. Schadde of Baraboo, as well as many townsfolk.

Miniature Circus Will Make Annual Stand in Essington

By CHARLES J. SHIELDS Of The Bulletin Staff

The Big Top, a Tom Thumb version that is, will open in Essington Sunday for a one-day stand.

This circus, a scale model covering 1,000 square feet, is the creation of John W. (Pop) Barrett, of 310 2d St. It will be on display on his front lawn between 1 P.M. and 5 P.M.

Barrett built the nucleus of the present model in 1927 and has been adding to it ever since. It now consists of more than a half-million parts and comprises nine mechanical "rides," 33 tents, and 88 wagons.

Much of the apparatus is electrically controlled, and 14 loudspeakers amplify recordings of animal "talk" and sounds heard on an actual circus mid-way.

Barrett, a machinist at General Steel Castings Corp., was a circus troupier in his younger days. For 17 years he worked as wagon-master and lot superintendent with some of the biggest shows on the road. He is vice president of the local "ring" of the Circus Model Builders of the United States.

Barrett's show has been valued at \$25,000, but he says it has a sentimental value to him of "more than a million dollars." He estimates that more than a half million persons have seen it on display in the last ten years.

Sunday will mark the ninth year that he has exhibited the model at his home. He schedules it for the Sunday nearest his birthday. He will be 58 Tuesday.

Storm Alarms Circus Audience Causing Near Panic Exit Rush

Sent in by J. Kelley, No. 113

Reprinted from Mendon Record of May 30, 1952

Several thousand persons were thrown into weak panic shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday at the King Brothers circus at Scarano Field when high winds, thunder and rain suddenly swooped down from the west.

The main tent shook violently as the high velocity wind blew through the circus grounds.

As the rain began pelting down hard on the canvas roof, many started to dash for the exits, accompanied by hundreds of children attending the circus without benefit of parents or guardians.

No Casualties

Luckily, no one was injured. But for a few moments it appeared as if the near capacity audience was manufacturing a disaster.

With another act still to go, the ring-master, watching large droves of people starting to leave, requested that they go carefully and orderly through the exits.

That about ended the show as far as the audience was concerned, according to police reports.

As the first to reach the exits were met by a heavy downpour, they added to the confusion by halting their dash, causing a severe jam of humanity at the outlets.

Main Feature Cancelled

The feature of the circus, Hugo Zucchini, the man who is shot from a cannon, was yet to be staged, but the audience was no longer interested.

The main tent had been almost completely filled during the show, and the audience lost no time in streaming for the exits and their cars. By that time, the rain was driving down in earnest, and with the darkness and noise terrifying those inside and outside, police were hard put for about 20 minutes to maintain order.

Tent Collapses

Soon after the storm struck, a portion of a side-show tent came down in the intense wind. Police authorities said the tent was empty as is the usual procedure when the main show is in progress under the "big top."

"Nothing actually happened to the big tent," Police Sergeant Lewis V. Aloia said later. "Its just that some people began to panic at the wind and noise of the storm."

Some reports told of large clouds of dust driven by the wind previous to the rain striking. The clouds swirled fiercely for a few moments "like a tornado." This obviously added to the confusion for the few who led the audience of the big tent in rushing to get to their cars.

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Founded in 1939

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Orwin C. Burmeister, Route 3,
Kewaunee, Wisc., "Will pay any price
for a catalog of circus billings and posters
up to 1925. Also for a draft horse litho-
graph."

Dana Stevens has taken over A. Mor-
ton Smiths column in "Hobbies" maga-
zine.

Bill Woodcock is with Siebrand Bros.
Carnival and Circus combined.

"DOC" WADDELL

Death came on July 15, 1952, to
"Doc" Waddell, the Circus Parson, at
Columbus, Ohio. He was known through-
out the country as the "Circus Evangel-
ist" and dean of old time press agents.

He was born, William Shackelford
Andres, in Portsmouth, Ohio, on Aug.
26, 1863. The passing years turned
him into a newspaper man, press agent,
railroad fireman and engineer, poet,
philosopher, lecturer, leader in fraternal
organizations, savor of souls, but his
love for the "big top" never waned.

Early in life he joined John Robinson's
Ten Big Shows, and became associated
with Kid Waddell, from whom he took
his name, Waddell. He was known as
an all day talker on the Side Show.

"Doc" had several years ago ex-
pressed the wish that, when his time
came, he be buried in an inexpensive
box, covered with red, white and blue
canvass. Nothing fancy. No flowers,
though flowers might be in another
room. If a circus was in town, he asked
that his funeral be held under the Big
Top at 8 P.M. However in later years
he changed his request, probably at the
behest of his wife, so that he had the
regular type of funeral service.

He is survived by his wife, and two
sons, Parson and William Andres, and
several cousins. Burial was in Spring-
field, Ohio, as he had requested.

MRS. JOHN C. ARTER

Word has been received of the death,
on June 1, 1952, of Mrs. John C. Arter.
She had been in ill health for some time.
All of our sympathy goes to her husband,
John C. Arter, a member of C.H.S.

ALLEN P. WESTCOTT

We have been advised of the death
of Allen P. Westcott of North Castine,
Maine. Date of death was March 28,
1952, so we have been advised. Mr.
Westcott was the proprietor of the Gun
Room Booksellers, and as such was well
known to many of our members. No de-
tails have been received at this time,
though we are advised that he is sur-
vived by his wife, who will continue to
operate the Gun Room. Our sincere
sympathy goes to Mrs. Westcott, at this
time.

REVERIE OF A ROUSTABOUT

With Apologies to Mr. Rudyard Kipling

When the last piece of canvas is loaded,
and the last truck has left with the poles,
When the lot is all dark and deserted,
and a weariness creeps o'er our souls,
We shall rest, and Lord how we need it
—lie down for an hour or two
Till a fog-horn voice and a whistle
sets us to work anew.

Then we'll rise like an army of robots
going each to his separate chore,
And we'll need neither bidding nor coaching
we've done it so often before.
O, we'll put it up in the morning,
and we'll take it down at night,
And yesterday's woes are forgotten
for today's are already in sight.

It can't be we do this for money,
and certainly not for fame;
This back-breaking wearisome labor
that leaves your poor muscles aflame,
Maybe it's part of our being—
(Small ease when your backbone creaks)
But it sure is a glorious feeling
when the "old rag" is up at the peaks.

Submitted by James W. Kelley, No. 113, June 2, 1952
